

district. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the SUNY Cortland Men's Lacrosse Team and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 15, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 336 (Motion to Suspend the rules and Agree to H. Res. 430), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 337 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 2325), "nay" on rollcall vote No. 338 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to HR. 729).

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REV. DR. C.
B. T. SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rev. Dr. C. B. T. Smith who passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Rev. Smith served the congregation of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, for over 45 years and was regarded nationally as a leading theologian and skilled minister.

Rev. Smith was born as one of 14 children to a sharecropper and a maid, and at the age of 20, he felt a profound call of service to God. In 1952, he became a pastor at Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church and began what would become a career spanning almost five decades. Rev. Smith married Rosie Lee Hartfield, on January 2, 1943, and they remained together for over fifty years until her passing on April 15, 2008. He is survived by several god children and three sisters-in-law.

As a pastor, Rev. Smith was a powerhouse in the Dallas area. One of the central points of his ministry was to ensure that the church adapted to the changing social needs of the community. When Rev. Smith saw that many African American men were suffering from alcohol and drug addiction, he developed a program to focus on counseling and rehabilitation. Through his career, Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church saw the creation of many ministries and fellowship programs including a Children's Ministry, a Marriage and Counseling Program, and a Senior's Fellowship Program, among others.

Today, Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church is one of the most vibrant congregations in Dallas with thanks in large part to the lifelong work of Rev. Dr. C. B. T. Smith. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the work and life of this great man who made a difference in the lives

of so many individuals. He will be deeply missed.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF BARBARA RINGER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Barbara Alice Ringer, who served as Register of Copyrights from November 19, 1973 through May 30, 1980, and was the first woman to hold this position. Ms. Ringer was known for her enduring modesty, her dedication to authors and artists, and her unsurpassed expertise in the field of copyright law.

Ms. Ringer was born in Lafayette, Indiana on May 29, 1925. Ms. Ringer earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from George Washington University, and then went on to become one of a handful of women to receive a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School in 1949.

Following her graduation from law school, Ms. Ringer joined the Copyright Office as an examiner, and worked her way up through the ranks of the Copyright Office, serving as Head of the Renewal and Assignment Section, Chief of the Examining Division, Assistant Register of Copyrights for Examining, and Assistant Register of Copyrights.

In 1971, after 22 years of service to the Copyright Office, five of which were as the second in command of the Office, Ms. Ringer was passed over for promotion to Register of Copyrights. Ms. Ringer challenged this decision and filed a discrimination suit. While the suit was pending, Ms. Ringer served as Director of the Copyright Division of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

A federal hearing revealed that there was a consistent pattern of discrimination within the Library of Congress, and that Ms. Ringer had been passed over because of her gender and because she had always vocally supported the promotion of African Americans in the Copyright Office. This ultimately led a federal judge to order that she be named Register of Copyrights. She went on to serve as Register from November 19, 1973, until her retirement in 1980; she was later called back to serve as Acting Register again, from 1993–1994.

Ms. Ringer's most notable accomplishment was the Copyright Act of 1976. Ms. Ringer was one of its chief architects and was the principal author of the Act, which brought sweeping changes and needed updates to United States copyright law. Her efforts, which culminated in passage of the Act, spanned 20 years and involved countless hours forging compromises between parties with conflicting interests and educating Members of Congress on the complexities of copyright law. In 1977, Ms. Ringer received the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service for her work related to the Act.

Barbara Ringer passed away at the age of 83 on April 9, 2009, in Lexington, Virginia. In keeping true to her passion for service, she donated upon her death her personal collec-

tion of 20,000 movies and 1,500 books on film to the Library of Congress. On behalf of the American people, thank you Ms. Ringer; you are missed.

REMEMBERING BARBARA RINGER

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a remarkable and pioneering lady, Ms. Barbara A. Ringer, the ninth Register of Copyrights, passed away earlier this year.

The first woman to serve as the head of the United States Copyright Office, which is part of the Library of Congress, Ms. Ringer served as an example of the profound, positive impact that a single individual can have in improving the lives and circumstances of others.

While her professional duties meant that she spent the overwhelming majority of her time and personal energy focused on promoting and protecting the rights of authors, composers, songwriters and performers, her passion for justice was not limited to these concerns.

My distinguished colleague, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, described some of Ms. Ringer's broader efforts in this regard in his remarks that were offered a few moments ago.

When the Washington Post reported on Ms. Ringer's passing, the headline read "Force Behind New Copyright Law". That headline is telling in at least two respects.

First, Ms. Ringer was truly the indomitable catalyst and indispensable person who motivated Congress to enact The Copyright Act of 1976, the first and only major revision of the code since the enactment of the 1909 Copyright Act nearly seven decades before. Ms. Ringer was a visionary who foresaw the impact of technological progress on the rights of individual creators. As the principal author of the 1976 Act, she succeeded to a remarkable degree in promoting principles that both strengthened the rights of authors and provided affirmative protections, for the first time, to users for the "fair use" of copyrighted works.

Second, in referring to the 1976 Act, the Post characterized a law that is now more than three decades old as the "New Copyright Law." This characterization indicates how difficult it is to balance all the competing interests and shepherd a bill that affects so many individuals and entities to enactment and yet this remarkable lady did precisely that through the sheer power of her intellect, commitment, perseverance and strategic abilities.

In closing, I ask that I be permitted to place into the RECORD two documents. The first is the Washington Post article, which I referred to earlier. The second is a Special Edition of Copyright Notices dated April 2009, which was authored by Judith Nieman and does an excellent job of chronicling the life and achievements of Ms. Ringer.

For both those who knew her and those who benefit unknowingly from her tremendous and dedicated efforts, Ms. Ringer has left an indelible legacy that is worthy of public recognition.